CLAIMS

Claim 1. Apparatus for receiving audio-visual programs comprising a circuit for communication with means of connection to a bi-directional communication network, wherein the apparatus comprises :

- a first connector of a bus for communication with a master apparatus, the first connector comprising at least one conductor for the transmission of a supply voltage (VBUS) originating from the master apparatus,

- at least one second connector of a communication bus, each second connector allowing the connection of at least one peripheral,

- a splitter connected on the one hand to the first and second connectors and on the other hand to a controller managing the mode of operation of the connectors in relation to the apparatus,

- means of detection of the presence of the supply voltage (VBUS) in the first connector, the means of detection being linked to the first connector and generating a switching control signal on the appearance of the supply voltage (VBUS) to a switching circuit, so as to switch the apparatus from a first mode of operation to a second mode of operation.

Claim 2. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the first mode of operation is a so-called master mode of operation, in which the apparatus behaves as a master in relation to each peripheral, and in that the second mode of operation is a so-called peripheral mode of operation in which the apparatus behaves as a peripheral in relation to the master apparatus.

Claim 3. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the first connector is a B type USB connector and in that each second connector is an A type USB connector.

Claim 4. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the switching circuit comprises a quad switch, linked

to the inputs/outputs of the controller and to the second connector, so as to allow the link between the second connector and the controller for a first given switching state.

Claim 5. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the switching circuit comprises a quad switch, linked to the inputs/outputs of the controller and to the inputs/outputs of a two-pathway splitter, itself linked to the first connector so as to allow in a second switching state the link between on the one hand the first connector and the controller and on the other hand the link from the first connector to the second connector.

Claim 6. Apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein a link transmits the supply voltage detection signal so as to control the switching from one state to the other, to an input of the controller and to an input of the main microprocessor.

Claim 7. Apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein, when the quad switch is switched into a first state, the apparatus operates in peripheral mode and when the quad switch is switched into a second state, the apparatus operates in master mode.

Claim 8. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the master apparatus is a personal computer and the apparatus comprises a digital decoder connected to the communication network so as to allow the computer to talk to the said network.

Claim 9. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the peripheral or peripherals are linked to the second connector of the apparatus by way of an additional splitter external to the decoder.